

Appl. No. : 10/642,399
Filed : August 15, 2003

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend paragraph 0058 as indicated below

[0058] The systems and methods for spinal fixation according to various embodiments of the present invention minimize procedure morbidity by avoiding open surgical cutdowns or other invasive access procedures. The basic percutaneous access, bone screw construction and implantation methods, and methods and structures for percutaneously positioning a fixation rod across bone screws, all of which are useful in the practice of the present invention, are disclosed in United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/747,066, entitled Percutaneous Vertebral Fusion System, to Teitelbaum, filed December 21, 2000; United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/943,636 to Shaolian et al., entitled Formable Orthopedic Fixation System, filed August 29, 2001; United States Patent Application Serial No. 09/976,459 to Teitelbaum et al., entitled Formable Orthopedic Fixation System with Cross-Linking, filed October 10, 2001; and United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/161,554 to Shaolian et al., entitled Formed in Place Fixation System with Thermal Acceleration, filed May 31, 2002; United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/462,098, [[10/____,____,]] filed June 13, 2003 under attorney docket number VLINK.021A and entitled System and Method for Minimally Invasive Posterior Fixation, the disclosures of all of which are hereby incorporated in their entireties by reference herein.

Please amend paragraph 0077 as indicated below

[0077] Further details and additional embodiments of a bone anchor utilizing a connector 104 can be found in co-pending United States Patent Application Serial No. 10/462,098, [[10/____,____,]] filed June 13, 2003, under Attorney Docket No. VLINK.021A and entitled System and Method for Minimally Invasive Posterior Fixation, which was incorporated by reference above.